

BURNED OUT!

Fierce Fire in The Evening Star Building.

IMMENSE VOLUMES OF SMOKE

Blind the Printers in Their Efforts to Get Out.

MANY NARROW ESCAPES.

THE STAR STILL SHINES

Shortly before 9 o'clock this morning a fire started in the basement of THE EVENING STAR building and in less than half an hour the rear portion of the structure, from the business office to the extreme northern end of the edifice and from the basement to the roof was wrecked. No lives were lost, but there were many narrow escapes. The fire created intense excitement and during the morning Pennsylvania avenue in the vicinity of The Star office was crowded by thousands of people.

At the time the fire started the employees of The Star had already commenced the work of the day to bring out the paper. Every man was at his post, attending to his share of the complicated undertaking of preparing a great newspaper for publication. The editors had sent out "copy" to the composing room to start the corps of compositors clicking the little types into the "sticks." The reporters were receiving their assignments from the city editor before starting on their rounds to sweep the city, the departments and the Capitol of news.

In the press-room the foreman in charge of the STAR's three great presses, with his force of eight assistants was oiling and cleaning the presses, getting out the immense rolls of paper and doing the little odds and ends of work necessary to prepare the machinery for its later duty.

In the basement of the building the fireman who feeds the immense boilers was busy turning himself about the engine with his back turned to the boiler. It is his duty to keep the engine clean. The boiler is located in the extreme northwest corner of the basement.

THE ORIGIN OF THE FIRE.
At this moment, George Armstrong, a young colored man employed in the building, came in with an immense bundle of waste paper. It is customary to burn the refuse which accumulates around the building. He opened the furnace doors and shoved the mass inside.

"I couldn't get the door closed," he afterward explained, "and I thought Dougherty, the engineer, was coming, so I left it."

Gibson, the fireman, claims that Armstrong left the paper on the floor near the furnace door.

In less than a minute after Armstrong passed out the fireman, who was oiling the machinery, heard a crackling and turned around.

The woodwork and ceiling of the whole room near the boiler was in a blaze, which was being rapidly consumed in a great cloud of smoke. Gibson threw a bucket of water on the woodwork, but, realizing the extent of the danger, ran upstairs into the press room shouting "Fire!"

THE ALARM GIVEN.
But the presence of the flames had been made known before he reached the top of the steps.

Tom Harlow had been working on No. 3 press, which was situated just above the boiler. While cleaning it he saw a cloud of smoke pour up by the window and heard the crackle of flames underneath.

He did not stop to investigate, but dashed through the room, crying fire as he ran. Then out of the building he sped across Pennsylvania avenue to No. 2 engine house.

"The Star office is on fire," he shouted.

A fireman sprang to a rope and gave a clang on a big bell on the wall. Down the brass pole from the rooms above came the firemen. The horses' stall doors flew open, and four magnificent animals dashed out and took their places under the suspended harness. The firemen had clambered into their seats on the engine and hose reel, and as the front doors of the engine house opened the machines rumbled away on their mission of help.

As they turned out of D street the foreman saw a great cloud of dark smoke rolling high above the Star building.

It seemed as if the whole center of the block was afire. The station-keeper saw it too and turned in the alarm from the box at the engine house.

No. 2 engine took station at the corner of 11th and Pennsylvania avenue.

The hose was carried along the Eleventh street front and run into the press-room.

PERIL OF THE PRINTERS.
It seemed ages before the first truck—Truck C—arrived. Men were clambering down improvised ladders, and the crowd was cheering and admonishing them to hold on. Smoke poured from all the windows, and the printers crowded into them to escape suffocation. Es-

cape by the stairway was cut off, and they all turned to the windows, and were only prevented from jumping by the presence of mind of one of the employees of Judd & Detweiler's printing office, who climbed on the roof and ran a ladder to the extreme north window on the 11th street side. It was a perilous means of escape, but the frightened and half-suffocated printers took their chances and escaped one by one, while the crowd below cheered. Just then truck C arrived. It seemed as though fully ten minutes had elapsed since the alarm was turned in before the ladder-laden equipage appeared. A sectional ladder was run up from the sidewalk to the composing room and those who remained were taken out.

FIREMEN FIGHTING THE FLAMES.
Chief Harris was one of the first to arrive. He was joined soon after the general alarm had been sounded by his two lieutenants, Assistant Chiefs Belt and Lowe, and the regular plan of fighting the fire was mapped out. It took but a second for the chief to grasp the situation, and he directed engine companies 6, 2, 4, 3 and 8 to attack the fire from the 11th street side and sent companies 1, 5 and 7 to fight it from the rear.

CLIMBING TO JUDD AND DETWEILER'S ROOF.
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WASHINGTON, D. C., WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 1892.

TWO CENTS.



THE STAR BUILDINGS.

The fire seemed the fiercest in the new wing in the rear, and when No. 5 company reached the roof of Galt & Co.'s jewelry store the entire back building was a mass of flames.

The firemen lost no time in running their hose to the rear, and soon three big streams were playing in the room where only fifteen minutes before upwards of seventy-five printers were setting the news of the day.

EVERYBODY AT WORK.
Foreman Maddox of engine company No. 2 was the first to arrive, he being on hand as soon as the alarm had been sounded. Every man in the service did his utmost, but the task of saving the building was a difficult one. Half suffocated by smoke they fought every inch of the way up the stairs, and there they stayed until the last spark had been smothered.

Thomas Fitzgerald of the water department did yeoman service. He was at the District building when the alarm sounded, and, knowing the box was in the vicinity of The Star building, hastened at once to the big valves and in a moment turned the entire supply of the 48-inch main into service. The result was an abundance of water.

Major Moore was also among the first arrivals and with a big reserve from the several station houses soon had the street roped off. At this time it is impossible to estimate the loss to The Star. It is, however, covered by ample insurance in home and foreign companies.

THOSE IN THE GREATEST DANGER.
The men in the composing room were in the greatest danger, and for a short time it seemed as though several of them would either suffocate from the dense volumes of smoke that

climbered around with the firemen through the smoke and water. The artist leaned carefully against a tree making sketches and two men with kodaks watched favorable opportunities to get snap shots of scenes.

As each reporter collected material for his story he returned to that portion of the building where the fire had not reached and sat down to write his part of the account. By 11 o'clock every man had gone out to attend to his regular daily assignments.

IN THE COMPOSING ROOM.
AN EXCITING TIME AMONG THE PRINTERS—MANY NARROW ESCAPES.
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much of a start of me, so I ran upstairs to give the alarm."

Tom Harlow, the boy whose presence of mind resulted in the early notification of the fire department, said: "When I saw the smoke I slid down off the press room crying fire. I kept on over to the engine house and told them about it and then ran back to the press room. That didn't take long, but when I got back to The Star building the whole rear end was on fire."

SCENES AND INCIDENTS.
Within five minutes after the fire started a crowd of several hundred people had gathered around the buildings, and in a little time this number was augmented until it reached thousands. It was an orderly crowd, and stood outside the fire-lines roped off by the policemen.

The only excitement that occurred was caused by the appearance of several men at the upper windows of the burning building who seemed about to jump to the pavement below. The crowd rushed forward in horror, shouting to them not to jump. For a few moments there was considerable excitement, and when the men finally escaped a great shout went up.

When it became evident that a disastrous fire was impending four reporters were called into the city editor's room and directed to make a story of the occurrence. Each man was given a portion of the descriptive work to do.

The reporters coolly noted the progress of the destruction, interviewed the workmen and

MAURICE JOYCE'S CLOSE CALL.
Mr. Maurice Joyce, the engraver, occupied that floor, and like many of the printers he remained in his office until he had to resort to the window as the only avenue of escape. He had been almost overcome by the intense heat and smoke, and when he appeared in sight of the trembling spectators he straddled the window as though getting ready to make a leap for life.

Bob Joyce, his son, was standing beneath him, and in tones that were heartrending he appealed to the bystanders for help and called to one whom he was afraid would lose his life: "Father, for God's sake, don't jump."

His appeals in both directions were answered, and assistance reached his father before he was forced to let go the window facings and fall to the sidewalk.

MR. BICKLER RESCUED.
A remarkable rescue and brave act was performed by Messrs. Clements and Shields.

climbered around with the firemen through the smoke and water. The artist leaned carefully against a tree making sketches and two men with kodaks watched favorable opportunities to get snap shots of scenes.

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